NAME_____ TUTORIAL SECTION_____

PHILOSOPHY 021 (Lecture Sections H and C)

BASIC SKILL I (Surface Analysis) TEST A

I. Indicate for each of the following whether it is an argument, an explanation, a conditional statement or a plain statement of alleged fact. In the case of an argument, state the conclusion; in the case of an explanation, say what is being explained.

(1) Mouse: "Since the cat is away, we can play."

(2) Dog: "The mice are playing because they think that the cat is away."

(3) Cat: "The mice have been playing since I have been away, if these crumbs are really cheese."

(4) Another Mouse: "If the cat leaves we can play, because then there will be no danger."

II. Give a diagrammatic representation of the surface structure of the following argument. (Literalize statements only when and if necessary.)

Revelation is a communication of something which the person to whom that thing is revealed did not know before. For if I have done a thing or seen it done, it needs no revelation to tell me I have done or seen it done. ... Revelation, therefore, cannot be applied to anything done upon earth of which man himself is the actor or witness; and consequently, all the historical and anecdotal parts of the Bible, which is almost the whole of it, is not within the meaning and compass of the word 'revelation', and therefore is not the word of God.

III. Give a standardized representation of the surface strutture of the following argument. (Use the back of the sheet for your answer.)

The class is nicely balanced, with half wanting to go to law school and the rest to business school. Why is that balance a nice one? Because they are all so smart that they are bound to achieve their goals, and so in future half of them will be the lawyers which the other half will need. Which means that supply will match demand.

Both the theft and the abortion sides of the analogy use statement 3_{ta}, but that statement is both VAGUE (what, e.g. does 'signpost' mean here?) and AMBIGUOUS (All law or some law?). If it means something like "All of society's standards ought to be enforced by law", then it is very controversial in this context, and we would have PROBLEMATIC PREMISE.

Statement (1_a) is also controversial ~~im~~, and so again there is PROBLEMATIC PREMISE. But logically the most interesting point is that statement 2_a (and, for that matter, 2_t) is AMBIGUOUS. It could mean "There is a consensus in society that abortion is wrong", but then the very fact that there is controversy about statement (1_a) shows that it is false. And further, inference IV_a would be ~~invalid~~ doubtful since it seems quite possible for abortion to be wrong without society reaching a consensus about it.

NAME_____ TUTORIAL SECTION_____

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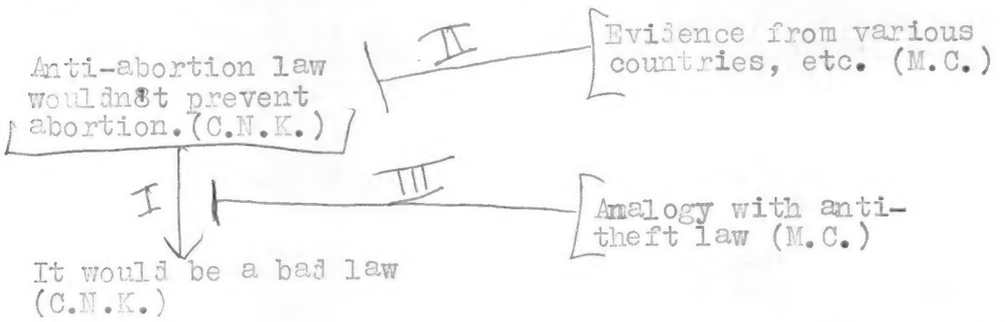
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THRUST: M.C is objecting to an argument about abortion attributed to C.N.K.

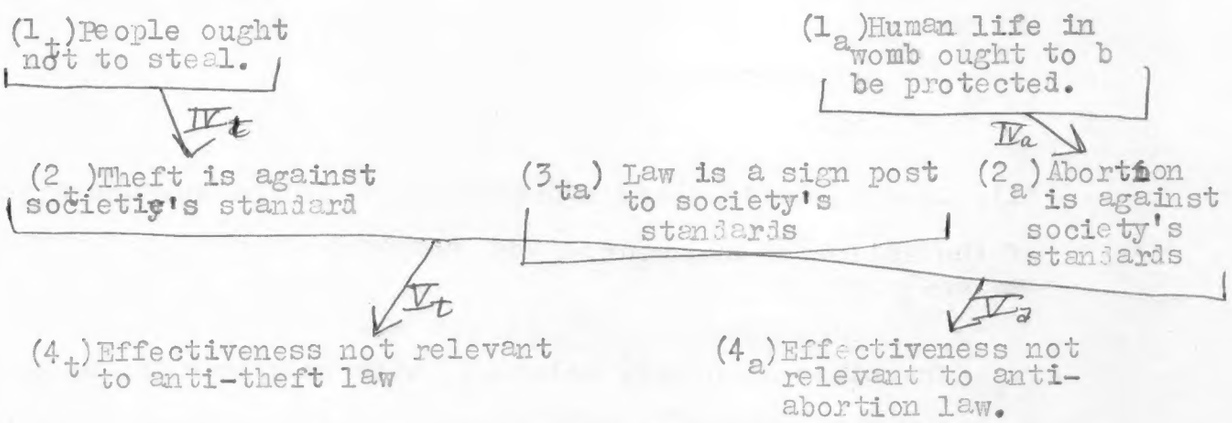
STRUCTURE: M.C. aboyects both the the premise of the argument and to the inference. The gross structure is this:



Inference I seems all right as far as it goes, since, other things equal, ineffective law is bad law. But the objection to the premise, inference II, is also good, and points to an important limitation. How effective a law is is obviously a matter of degree, and we require statistics of some sort to specify this.

But there is another aspect. Usually, when the effectiveness argument is used against anti-abortion laws, there is an additional premise having to do with the medically unsatisfactory conditions in which, it is alleged, illegal abortions are usually done. For ignoring this, M.C. can be accused of OVERSIMPLIFYING, and if this was in fact part of C.N.K.'s argument, then there is STRAW MAN as well.

But logically, the most interesting inference here is III, which draws an ANALOGY between the (supposedly) non-controversial case of theft and the controversial case of abortion. It can be set out like this:



Unfortunately for Lever, his new words did not catch on and Wilson's 'inkhorn' terms won out, as the comparative table below will show. (Years later, in 1580, Wilson was appointed dean of Durham, over the objections of Lever. Lever would appear to have been one of Logic's great losers.)

LATIN	WILSON	LEVER	MODERN
logica	logique	witcraft	logic
propositio	proposicion	shewsay	proposition
affirmatio		yeasay	affirmation
praemissa	proposicion	foresay	premise
conclusio	conclusion	endsay	conclusion
negatio		naysay	negation
definitio	definicion	saywhat	definition
subiectum	subjectum	foreset	subject
praedicatum	praedicatum	backset	predicate
propositio conditionalis	conditional prop.	ifsay	conditional prop.
opposita	repugnaunces	gaynsets	opposites
prop. disiunctiva	disjunctive prop.	parting shewsay	disjunctive prop.
aequivoca		lykesounding words	equivocals
univoca		playn meaning	univocal
maius terminus	major	ye general terme	major term
medium	double repeate	the proving term	middle term
minus terminus	minor	ye speciall term	minor term

HISTORICAL NOTE

In the sixteenth century in Europe there was a shift from Latin to the vernacular in books on academic subjects. The first logic text book in English was

THE RULE OF REASON CONTEINYING THE ARTE OF LOGIQUE, by Thomas Wilson (1551)

The second was

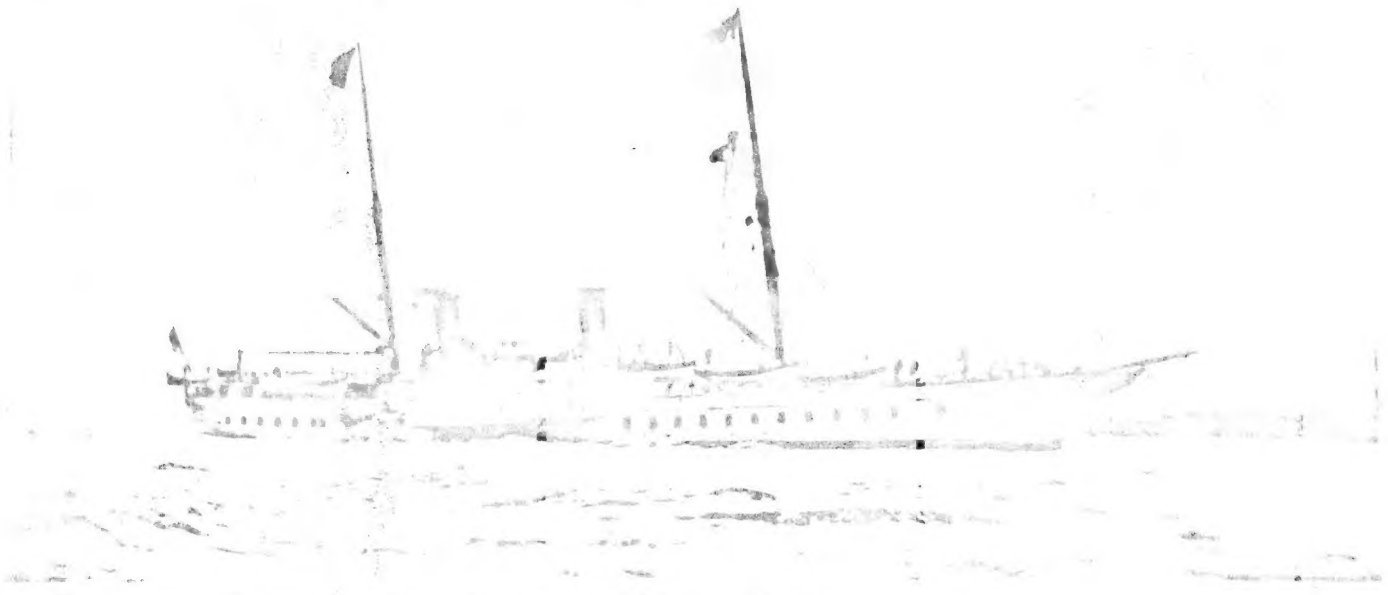
THE ARTE of Reason, rightly termed, Witcraft, teaching a perfect way to argue and dispute, Made by Raphe Lever (1573)

Both these authors faced the task of devising English technical terms for their subject, and they approached this problem in quite different ways. Wilson, for the most part, simply took over Latin terms from the older Latin text books; Lever invented brand new words based on English roots. Lever was quite deliberate about this, and said the following about it in his Preface or, as he put it, Forespeache. (It is also very probable that he had Wilson in mind as an opponent as he wrote.)

> An Arte is to be taughte in that toung, in whiche it was never written afore. Nowe the question lyeth, whether it were better to borrowe termes of some other toung, in which this sayde Arte hath bene written: and by a litle chaunge of pronouncing, to seeke to make them Englishe wordes, whiche are none in deede: or else of simple usual wordes, to make compounded termes, whose severall partes considered alone, are familiar and knowne to all english men? For trial hereof, I wish you to aske of an english man, who understandeth neither Greek nor Latin, what he conceiveth in his mind, when he heareth this word a backset, and what he doth conceive when he heareth this terme a Predicate. And doubtlesse he must confesse, if he consider ye matter aright or have any sharpnesse of wit at al, that by a backset, he conceiveth a thing that must be set after, and by a predicate, that he doth understande nothing at all. The like shall fall foorth when comparison is made, betwixt any of our new termes compounded of true english words, and the inkhorne termes derived of straunge and forain languages:
>
> . . .
>
> We therefore, that devise understandable termes, compounded of true and auncient english woords, do rather maintain and continue the antiquitie of our mother tongue: then they, that with inckhorne termes doe chaunge and corrupt the same, making a mingle mangle of their native speache, and not observing the propertie thereof.

(cont.)

Questionable Cause



German Royal Yacht Kaiser Adler, 1892

So yachting, although enjoyable for many was also an outlet for social pressures. In fact the famous seasons of coastal regattas in Britain became the prelude to World War I, although few realised this until much later. The German Kaiser had a kind of love-hate relationship with everything British and took to yachting as a way of proving to the proud island race that Germany could better their efforts. The first German yachts were built in Britain and even had British crews. The Kaiser had the full backing of the German industrial entrepreneurs who were, by the opening stages of the twentieth century, challenging British manufactured goods throughout the world and in particular in South America and Africa. If the Kaiser's yacht could win, like the American schooner *America* had at Cowes half a century before, German prestige would receive a boost throughout the world.

Although of course the Germans won many races and were perfectly capable sailors they couldn't quite achieve a knock-out victory over the British yachts. In the end the German industrialists and military ruling party grew weary of trying to dominate the world through the sport of yachting and tried with disastrous results to do it by brute force. The Great War plunged Europe into a series of disasters which brought about many changes including the hastening of social reform which ended the grand form of yachting which had existed peacefully throughout the Victorian and Edwardian eras.

The author seems here to suggest that the cause of the first World War was the failure of the Germans to beat the British in yacht racing! However the connecting hypothesis (that the Germans 'wearied' of using yachting as a means to dominate the world, and so switched to war) lacks plausibility!

R.W. Binkley
Oct. 1979

From Robert Simpe
Victorian and Edwardian Yachting from Old Photographs (London, 1979)

Valeda says nobody's gonna read writin' when it's written rotten.

Charlie Farquharson, Histry of Canada

Order to reinstate Lord's prayer political ploy

The Davis Government's order to the Toronto Board of Education to reinstate the Lord's Prayer is an obvious political ploy designed to have populist appeal (Reinstate Lord's Prayer, Province Tells Board — Sept. 14). Premier William Davis may be fighting a battle for his image but he is losing his credit for sound reasoning and principle in the process.

Morality, humility, compassion, truthfulness, respect and any number of other essential human strengths should be distinguished from religious dogma. The school system is justified, and encouraged, to foster the former values in our young citizens. Schools are not justified in using, nor will they achieve their ends by enforcing, religious cant. Cant produces regimented beliefs or cynicism. Instruction, questioning, challenge, discipline and example produce understanding and solidly based humanitarian values.

There is also a glaring oversight in the Premier's "pillars of stability" crusade to save the young. Our values and principles are tested, and weakened as much as strengthened, by the events of adult life. Politics is surely a prime example. If our children are to be legislated into prayer to preserve society's values, God knows that the Tories should oblige the rest of us to pray each morning — and perhaps even pray with us!

Tony Barrett
Toronto

Globe + Mail
22 Sept. '79

Reductio ad Absurdum

THRUST: Barrett is here criticizing the Davis government's order about the Lord's Prayer.

In his first two paragraph , Barrett attacks the Davis position along the same lines that I did. [See "Logic and Politics" in the London Close Reasoner.] So I, at least, think that Barrett is reasoning pretty closely.

(However we should note that he offers no evidence to support his claim (paragraph 2) that cant produces regimented beliefs and cynicism. The truth might well be that a little cant in the schools has no effect at all on the students.)

The last paragraph, as I interpret it contains an interesting reductio ad absurdum argument against the Davis position, with the following structure:

Adults need to have their values strengthened as well as children.

↓ I

If it is right to legislate prayer for children to strengthen values then it is right to legislate prayer for adults. & It would be absurd (not right) to legislate prayer for adults

↓ II

It is absurd (not right) to legislate prayer for children.

Argument II is valid; it belongs to deductive logic, and is a case of modus tollens. But its first premise is doubtful, and argument I which is offered to support it, looks rather like a HASTY CONCLUSION. Things that work for children don't necessarily work for adults.

R.W. Binkley
23 Sept. '79

HASTY CONCLUSION, ETC.

I do, however, differ with Mr. Clark in parts of his analysis. For example, he says he does not feel that the Muzorewa Government has sufficient authority to guarantee stability and security in the country. In a military sense, this is undoubtedly true. The Government is locked in a savage guerrilla war with the forces of the Patriotic Front and, if the Government has the upper hand it is not by much. In a political sense, however, the Muzorewa administration seems to have good support in the country. People with whom I talked in my four days in Zimbabwe Rhodesia were generally agreed that the April election results were a fair reflection of the public will.

Mr. Clark is also concerned about the continued presence of Ian Smith in the Muzorewa Cabinet (he is a minister without portfolio). It's a resonable concern. It is understandable that other African leaders should, as Mr. Clark says, suspect that Mr. Smith is still in control of the police, the army and the civil service.

That's an impossible question for any outsider — white or black — to judge. When I talked to General Peter Walls, who runs the military, he — as one might expect — denied that he takes his orders from Mr. Smith. The blacks whom I met in Zimbabwe Rhodesia did not seem concerned about Mr. Smith's influence. I talked to people who attend Cabinet meetings. They say Prime Minister Muzorewa values Mr. Smith's counsel. But they also say he does not hesitate to reject Mr. Smith's advice if it does not coincide with his own opinion.

From a column by Geoffrey Stevens in The Globe and Mail, 3 August, 1979.

The main thrust of the first paragraph is to argue, in opposition to a view attributed to Clark, that the Muzorewa Government does have sufficient political authority to guarantee stability and security.

The argument may be represented as a two step one, as follows:

(3) People with whom Stevens talked agree that the election reflects the publicwill.

Therefore,

(2) The Muzorewa Government has good political support in the country.

Therefore,

(1) The Muzorewa Government has sufficient authority, in the political sense, to guarantee stability and security.

In the first step, from (3) to (2), we seem to have a case of HASTY CONCLUSION, and perhaps also of IMPROPER APPEAL TO AUTHORITY. In four days Stevens could hardly have carried out an adequate survey of public opinion throughout the country. Insofar as he attempted such a thing, his sample must necessarily have been very small, and without any guarantee of its being representative.

He seems instead to have relied on what was said to him about public opinion by those to whom he talked. But he does not say who these people were, or why their statements about public opinion should be accepted. (In the later paragraphs he does mention some of the people he talked to, but these, General Walls, and some persons who attend Muzorewa cabinet meetings, have an obvious bias.)

In the second step, from (2) to (1), there appears to be serious VAGUENESS. What can it mean to say that the government's authority in the political sense is sufficient to guarantee stability and security when the treat to stability and security is a military one?

Perhaps he means something to the effect that if the military threat were somehow to vanish, everything would be finex as far as stability and security go. But then it is not clear that he is disagreeing with Clark, and in professing to be he would be guilty of STRAW MAN.

R.W. Binkley
Aug. '79

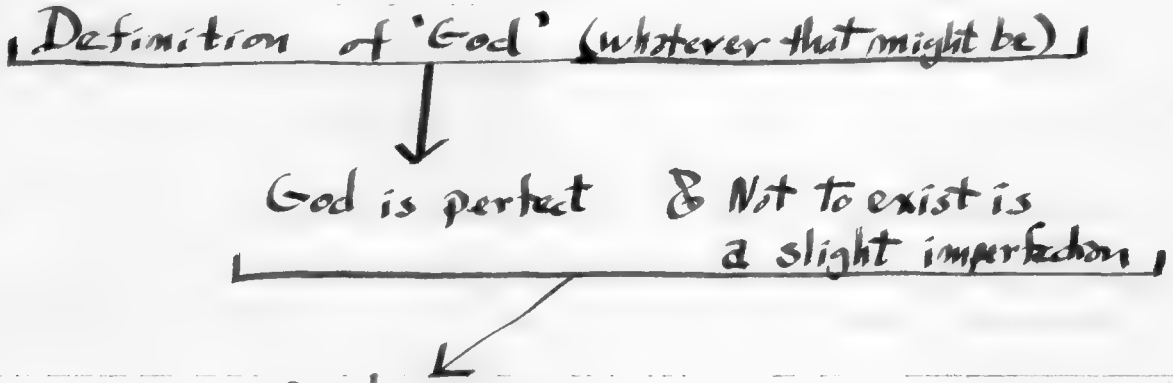
For 'London Close Reasoning'

'God, by definition, is perfect. It is a slight imperfection not to exist. Therefore God exists.'

Andrew Refuse

⇒ I do not believe this, but I think it is an interesting example of "loose reasoning".

The structure is clear:



Alas, it is not clear what fallacy Andrew finds in this reasoning.

[Andrew is a δ]

R.W. Binkley . 21 Sept '79

Nitpicking

Someone wrote in after this (I lost the clipping) pointing out that Hinch got the date of the Dred Scott case wrong. (It was actually 1857, not 1867.) This criticism of Hinch, while correct enough, is not relevant at all to the argument she was trying to make. So her critic must be charged with not observing the virtue of DISCRIMINATION.

R.W.Binkley Sept. 1979

FAULTY ANALOGY

> And that was the very point made four years later [after a similar statement made by a Peronist] by Admiral Guzzetti, one of the leaders of the present regime, when, defending the terror, he spoke to the United Nations in August 1976. The Admiral (who has since been wounded in a guerrilla attack) said: "My idea of subversion is that of the left-wing terrorist organizations. Subversion or terrorism of the right is not the same thing. When the social body of the country has been contaminated by a disease that corrodes its entrails, it forms antibodies. These antibodies cannot be considered in the same way as the microbes."

BACKGROUND: This is from an article by V.S.Naipaul (New York Review of Books, 11 Oct. 1979, p.13) in which he discusses the present situation in Argentina. He says that the present government there now operates a reign of terror, with police kidnapping, torturing and often killing supposed opponents of the regime. But his main purpose is not so much to attact the present regime as to indict the whole country for giving way to barbarism. All of the political groups, he says, support torture (of their enemies, of course, not their friends), and engage in it when they have the opportunity. The Admiral's statement is to be seen as just a particular expression of this general (and macho) outlook.

In context, Admiral Guzetta must be taken to be arguing for the view that it is all right for the Right to use terrorist methods, but not for the Left.

The argument, such as it is, is a lazy man's analogy. We are given the equations

Left = microbes
Right = antibodies

We readily agree that all is fair when it comes to antibodies zapping microbes, and the Admiral's statement invites us to transfer this agreement, lazily, to the case of political struggle.

A moment's thought, of course, allows us to see that this is all a fraud. Argentina, after all, is not very much like a person with a disease. (What exactly are these 'corroded entrails'?) And still less are left-wing terrorists like microbes and right-wing terrorists like antibodies. (For one thing, terrorists of all sorts are persons.)

Put straightforwardly, and without appeal to the analogy, the Admiral's argument must be something like this:

(a) Left-wing terrorism constitutes a threat to the state.
(b) Right-wing terrorism is an effective and natural method of combatting it.

Therefore, right-wing terrorism is justified.

Both premises have their problems, but especially premise (b). Fighting terrorism with terrorism cannot really be effective if it has the consequence that the whole country is reduced to barbarism. (And it seems to have that consequence, or at least so Naipaul says.)

R.W. Binkley
30 Sept 1979

Questionable Cause

Accuses police of 'cruel joke'

Ziemba telephones Barrie JP to protest picketer's detention

. . .

Edward Ziemba (High Park-Swansea) said yesterday that Brando Paris, a Mississauga man, is being held in Barrie jail over the long weekend because of "a cruel joke" on the part of Barrie police. Mr. Paris was arrested Friday evening over an incident that took place last Monday.

. . .

The MPP said police visited Mr. Paris's home Tuesday and were told to return in the evening, but did not reappear until Friday when they arrested the man for mischief over a picket-line incident at the strikebound Radio Shack plant in Barrie. The incident took place on the same day Mr. Ziemba was charged with assaulting police.

Mr. Paris, a member of the United Steelworkers of America, appeared before Mr. Burton in Barrie on Friday night. Police opposed bail, Mr. Burton said in an interview yesterday, so Mr. Paris is being held until tomorrow for a bail hearing before a judge. He was not accompanied by a lawyer when he appeared before Mr. Burton on Friday night.

Mr. Ziemba said yesterday he believed the Barrie police waited deliberately until Friday to arrest Mr. Paris, knowing he would have to spend the Thanksgiving weekend in jail, away from his wife and children.

"They purposely held off . . . so that they could force this guy to spend four days in jail."

. . .

Barrie Police Inspector Ron Pickard said he didn't know why Mr. Paris wasn't arrested until Friday, but said for Mr. Ziemba to accuse police of deliberately waiting until the long weekend was "a little ridiculous.

"I think he's stretching things a bit far if he's suggesting that," the inspector said.

Globe & Mail 8 Oct. '79

THRUST: In the indicated passage, Mr. Ziemba is charging the Barrie police with purposely delaying the arrest of Mr. Paris so that Paris would have to spend the week-end in jail.

This is basically a causal claim. Ziemba is saying that the cause of a certain police action is a certain purpose that the police had. In so far as one can tell from this account, his reasoning must be something like this:

(a.) The arrest was delayed

(b.) The delay had the result that Paris spent the week-end in jail

Therefore, (c.) the delay was caused by a desire for that result.

As far as we can tell, such a cause may have been operative, but the premises given here are not enough to establish that since some fairly obvious alternative explanations have not been considered and ruled out. For example, the police might just have been waiting for a moment when it would be convenient for them to go and get him. So, it is QUESTIONABLE CAUSE.

(Nevertheless, the police are in a certain logical bind here. If Paris indeed posed such a threat that it was right for the police to oppose bail, then it would seem that they ought to have arrested him promptly.)

(This was the Thanksgiving weekend)

PHILOSOPHY 021 UW/B,C

Hour Exam 26 October, 1979

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your answers on the separate sheets provided. Put your name and a designation of your tutorial section at the top.
2. Most of these questions can be answered with one-liners. So DO NOT go on at tedious length trying to say all you know; instead, SELECT from all you know that little bit which actually answers the question.
3. An effort will be made to have the exams returned on Wednesday.
4. Be of good cheer.

(Points) PART I

(4) 1. Give the meanings of the following terms as they are used in logic.

a. Proposition
b. argument
c. conclusion
d. premise

(5) 2. Give the meanings of the following terms as they were used in our chart of the various divisions of reasoning.

a. Discovery
b. Justification
c. Private
d. Public
e. Inference

(8) 3. Explain what we mean by the main thrust of a passage, give an example of a thrust statement, and explain what the action and the object of a thrust are.

(3) 4. List three conclusion indicators.

(3) 5. List three premise indicators.

PART II

~~(5) 6. How do surface and depth analysis relate to the contrast between text and interpretation?~~

(9) ~~(6)~~ 7. Name and characterize the three virtues associated with depth analysis.

~~(5) 8. What is the difference between argument and explanation, according to Johnson and Blair?~~

(6) ~~(4)~~ 9. What is a rhetorical question, and what are we advised to do with such questions when analyzing a passage?

(3) 10. Give a literal English translation of this Latin expression: post hoc ergo propter hoc.

PART III

(3) 11. What is a conditional proposition?

(3) 12. What is the negation of a proposition?

(4) 13. What is the Straw Man fallacy, and why is it classified as a fallacy of diversion?

(4) 14. What is the Two Wrongs fallacy, and why is it classified as a fallacy of impersonation?

(4) 15. What is ambiguity, and how does it differ from vagueness?

PART IV

3 ~~(2)~~ 16. What is a disanalogy?

(4) 17. What would a counter-example be to the argument "A, therefore B"? ~~and how would such counter-examples come into the evaluation of that argument?~~

(4) 18. What would it mean to say that honesty is a necessary condition for moral integrity, and what would it mean to say that it is a sufficient condition?

(6) 19. What are the three factors we are advised to consider when evaluating an argument to a particular causal claim?

(4) 20. Represent the following argument structure by the arrow method.

Total: 80

1. a Premise
2. b From 1
3. c Premise
4. d From 2,3
5. e Premise
6. f From 5
7. not-g From 4,6

GREAT MOMENTS IN EDUCATION

TO THE

CONDUCTORS

OF

Juvenile Studies

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

SIRS,

THOSE Inſtructors, who in good earneſt are willing to fulfill the duty of their Station, will carefully attend to the wants of young Perſons, and readily condeſcend to their eſtate in all its lowlineſs.

From:
An Introduction to Logick, Scholastic and Rational, Oxford, 1773

Who is Castro fooling in 'non-aligned' claim?

I was heartened to read your editorial Whose Man In Havana? (Sept. 6) commenting on Fidel Castro's claim that he is "non-aligned." If ever there was a case of someone calling "white" "black," this is it. Unfortunately, many ignorant leaders of the Third World countries want to believe what Castro tells them and would like to pretend that they, too, are "non-aligned."

[(1) Castro is the lackey of Moscow, (2) its mouthpiece and (3) its recipient of vast amounts of aid to further Moscow's policies in Africa and Latin America and even here in training subversives in Quebec.] I only wish more Canadians would realize this and not go on travelling to Cuba for a cheap holiday and put money into the hand that will slap them.

David J. Moore
Thornhill



Castro: whose man?

Globe and Mail 22 Sept. '79.

BEGGING THE QUESTION

THRUST: Moore is here attacking Castro's claim to be non-aligned.

His argument seems to be this:

(1.) Castro is the lackey of Moscow
(2.) Castro is a mouthpiece for Moscow
(3.) Castro receives vast amounts of aid to further Moscow's policies in Africa and Latin America and even here in training subversives in Quebec.

Therefore, (a.) Castro is not non-aligned

Premises (1) and (2) involve BEGGING THE QUESTION, since 'lackey' and 'mouthpiece' are no more than emotionally charged ways of saying that Castro is aligned with Moscow.

Also, premise (3) has two problematic aspects and so, to a certain extent, we have PROBLEMATIC PREMISE.

First, while it is generally acknowledged that Castro receives a great deal of aid from Moscow, it is not so clear that it is for the purpose of furthering Moscow's policies in Africa, etc. A lot of it, at least, must simply be to help the Cuban economy in the face of the U.S. boycott.

Second, while charges were made several years ago about Cubans training subversives in Quebec, I don't recall that they were ever substantiated (though they may have been) nor was it shown that this was Moscow's policy.

However, premise (3) may also contain the point that Cuba does seem to support the Soviet side on many issues in world affairs. That, if present in (3), would enable that premise to give a certain amount of support to the conclusion.

R.W. Binkley
25 Sept. '79.

Reinstate Lord's Prayer, Toronto school board told

Problematic Premise

(Globe + Mail, 14 Sept '79)

[When they made their decision, board members said they considered a minute's silence an alternative to the Lord's Prayer that would not offend other religious groups. "We can't shove the dominant view down all the minority throats," Mrs. Nelson said then. ①

Premier Davis sent Mrs. Nelson a letter yesterday saying: "I cannot agree that the use of this prayer is offensive or divisive." ②

He said that "as a parent and concerned citizen I simply do not believe that a period of silence would fulfil the purpose for which our predecessors felt it was right to include the Lord's Prayer or other suitable prayers in the daily program." ③

The Premier, a member of the United Church of Canada, argued that the Lord's Prayer is not an unfair imposition on those of other faiths. ④ "I also believe that the Lord's Prayer establishes a common respect for a society where morality, humility and faith in God are important pillars of stability and the social norm." ⑤

Mr. Davis said that he doesn't think his views are old-fashioned ⑥ and that he thinks the Lord's Prayer can be retained as an important part of the moral values of Canadian society without threatening others. ⑦

"I offer the view that it is not a prayer which imposes an exclusive religious doctrine on anyone ⑧ and, while it may not have specific meaning for some, its general application for so many surely is sufficient to evoke respect from all." ⑨]

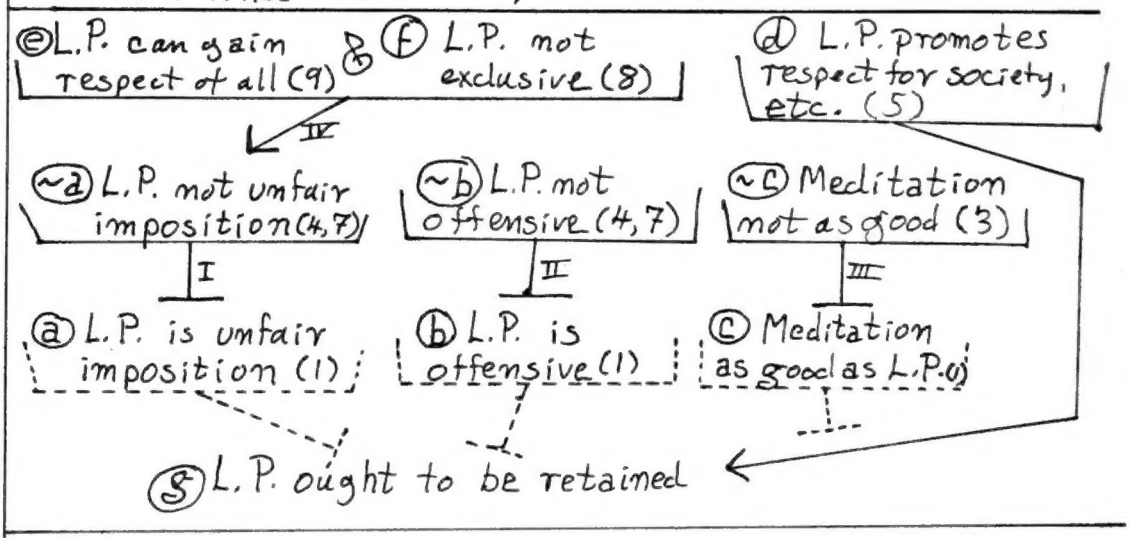


William Davis

Thrust: Davis is defending the Lord's Prayer requirement in the Toronto schools against the objections of Mrs. Nelson.

(She is chairman of the Toronto Board of Education, which had decided to replace the prayer with a one minute period of silent meditation.)

Nelson's argument can be found in ①; Davis's is scattered through the rest of the story. The structure of the debate can be represented as follows: (dotted lines for Nelson, solid for Davis)



Davis's 'arguments' II and III amount simply to denying Nelson's claims without argument. In the case of II, at least, argument is needed since Nelson has on her side the point that various non-Christians actually are offended, and make complaints. PROBLEMATIC PREMISE.

In argument IV, which supports I, premise (F), at least, needs support. It ignores the fact that the Lord's Prayer is distinctively Christian. It was introduced by the Founder of that religion (Sermon on the Mount, Matthew, chap. VI) and has been a part of Christian ritual ever since. Further, the 'father in heaven', to whom the prayer is addressed, can hardly be any being other than the Christian God. PROBLEMATIC PREMISE again.

R.W. Binkley Sept. '79

Logic and Politics

Davis's arguments in the example above are so inadequate that one wonders why an intelligent man would offer them. It occurs to cynical old me that the following might possibly be what Davis is really thinking on the topic:

A. The non-Christian minorities are civilized and courteous, and won't make much of a fuss. [This may be the real meaning of ⑨]

B. By contrast, cutting the prayer would produce a real storm from the Christian bigots. (Not all Christians are bigots; not all bigots are Christian; but there are Christian bigots.)

C. It doesn't really matter what prayer, if any, they have in school

∴ D. It is best to take the politically easy course and keep the prayer, defending the decision with some pious cant.*

If this is right, then this example teaches us that politicians sometimes sacrifice logic to other interests. They do this because there are so many <u>loose</u> reasoners in the population that their votes are required to win elections. <u>Close</u> reasoners have their work cut out for them.

R.W. Binkley Sept. '79

* <u>Cant</u>: insincere talk; moral and religious statements that many people make, but few really believe or follow.

The Gage Canadian Dictionary